N° 21,123 A.D. 1901

Date of Application, 22nd Oct., 1901—Accepted, 23rd Nov., 1901

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

"Improvements in or relating to Massage Apparatus or Rollers."

I, ACHILLE BARTHELEMY BOYER, of 25 Rue de Madrid, Paris, Doctor, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention has reference to improvements in or relating to massage apparatus or rollers, which improvements consist in mounting a series of discs or rollers on a flexible or pliable axle instead of on an inflexible axle as has hitherto been done—so that in using my improved massage apparatus the rollers will adapt themselves or conform to the shape or surface conformation of that part of the body which is being treated or massaged, the result being that the pressure or rubbing action is spread fairly evenly over the whole width covered by the rollers. A further improvement consists in connecting the rollers or other suitable part of the apparatus to an electric battery or other source of electricity, so that the part being massaged may at the same time receive the beneficial influence or action of an electric current, the object of my invention being to enable more beneficial results to be attained, in the same time and with an about equal expenditure of labour, as compared with massage apparatus or rollers hitherto in use.

The necessary flexibility of the axle may be obtained in different ways, for example, by making it of a spiral spring, or of a series of lengths of spring wire arranged to act more or less as a laminated spring, or of india rubber or other sufficiently elastic and pliable material.

The discs or rollers are mounted fairly loosely and independently of each other on said flexible axle, there being sufficient play to permit said rollers to turn thereon and to adjust themselves laterally according to the shape of the part of the body over which they are being used. These discs or rollers may be made of wood, hard india rubber, or any other suitable material, but preferably such as will not excessively heat when being used in the massage operations.

If my improved apparatus is intended to be used not only for massage but also to subject the part operated on to the action of an electric current, I may make the discs or rollers of metal which, if desired, may be plated, or the said rollers may be made of wood or other material provided with a metal facing, or they may be made in any other practical manner and of any suitable material or materials. One wire from the battery or other electrical source is connected to the frame of my improved apparatus and the other wire is held by the patient or it is applied to any desired part of his body, so that the massage operation will, as already stated, be rendered—for some purposes—more beneficial by reason of the simultaneous application of the electric current.

In order to prevent the skin or hair of the patient being pinched or gripped between and pulled by the rollers, I may provide a sleeve or covering made of flexible and extensible material and enveloping the discs or rollers in such a way that my improved apparatus would appear to consist of a single flexible roller, or I may chamfer the edges of the rollers so that they do not meet at their extreme edges and are not therefore liable to grip either the skin or the hair of the patient.

In the accompanying drawing I have illustrated two simple forms of my improved massage apparatus or rollers, like letters of reference indicating corresponding parts throughout the several figures, and in which;—

Fig. 1 is a front elevation showing my improved massage apparatus or rollers applied to a slightly convex surface,

[*Price 8d.*]

Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof,

Fig. 3 shows a front elevation of my improved massage apparatus, the rollers and bearings being in section, and

Figs. 4 and 5 show in plan view and side elevation respectively an alternative form of my improved apparatus.

As illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3, my improved massage apparatus consists of a series of circular discs or rollers 1, the edges of which are chamfered for the purpose already described, said discs or rollers being loosely mounted on a flexible axle 2 made in this case of a spiral spring the ends of which are provided with suitable plugs or equivalents into which the supporting trunnions 3 enter, which latter are carried by a frame or the like 4 having a handle 5.

One of the trunnions 3 may be fixedly carried by the frame 4 and the other may be formed or provided with a screw 6, the unscrewing of which would enable the spindle or axle and the discs to be removed.

Fig. 1 shows how the discs 1 adjust themselves when my improved apparatus is applied to a convex surface 7, said discs being in contact at their lower parts but more or less spreading out at their upper parts.

As already stated, Figs. 4 and 5 show an alternative form of my improved massage apparatus, there being in this instance two sets or series of rollers or discs carried in a common frame 8, each set or series of rollers being mounted on a flexible spindle or axle as already described.

On account of the flexibility of the spindle 2, the desired beneficial results from the massage operation are attained more quickly on account of the effective surface being greater—especially when more or less convex surfaces are under treatment—than with rollers mounted on an inflexible spindle, and said operation is rendered more easy and less fatiguing to the operator and may in some cases be even performed by the patient himself.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is;—

1. An improved massage apparatus comprising a series of movable and rotatable discs, mounted on a flexible spindle or axle carried in a suitable frame so that said discs act as a flexible roller for the purposes and substantially as set forth.

2. In a massage apparatus such as claimed in Claim 1, a series of discs mounted loosely on a spiral spring which latter serves as the axle or spindle on which said discs may rotate, the ends of said spring being carried in a frame provided with a suitable handle, all for the purposes and substantially as set forth.

3. A message apparatus of the kind claimed in Claim 1, in which two or more sets or series of discs or rollers are supported on flexible spindles carried by a common frame, all for the purposes and substantially as set forth.

4. A massage apparatus such as claimed in Claim 1, in which the discs or rollers are enveloped in or covered by a sleeve or equivalent made of elastic material for the purposes and substantially as set forth.

5. A massage apparatus such as claimed in Claim 1 having metal discs or rollers or their equivalents and so arranged that an electric current may be passed through the frame, the flexible spindle or axle and the discs or rollers, all for the purposes and substantially as set forth.

Dated this 21st day of October, 1901.

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Redhill: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Malcomson & Co., Ltd.—1901.

A.D. 1901. Oct. 22. N° 21,123.
BOYER'S Complete Specification.

(1 SHEET)

Fig. 1

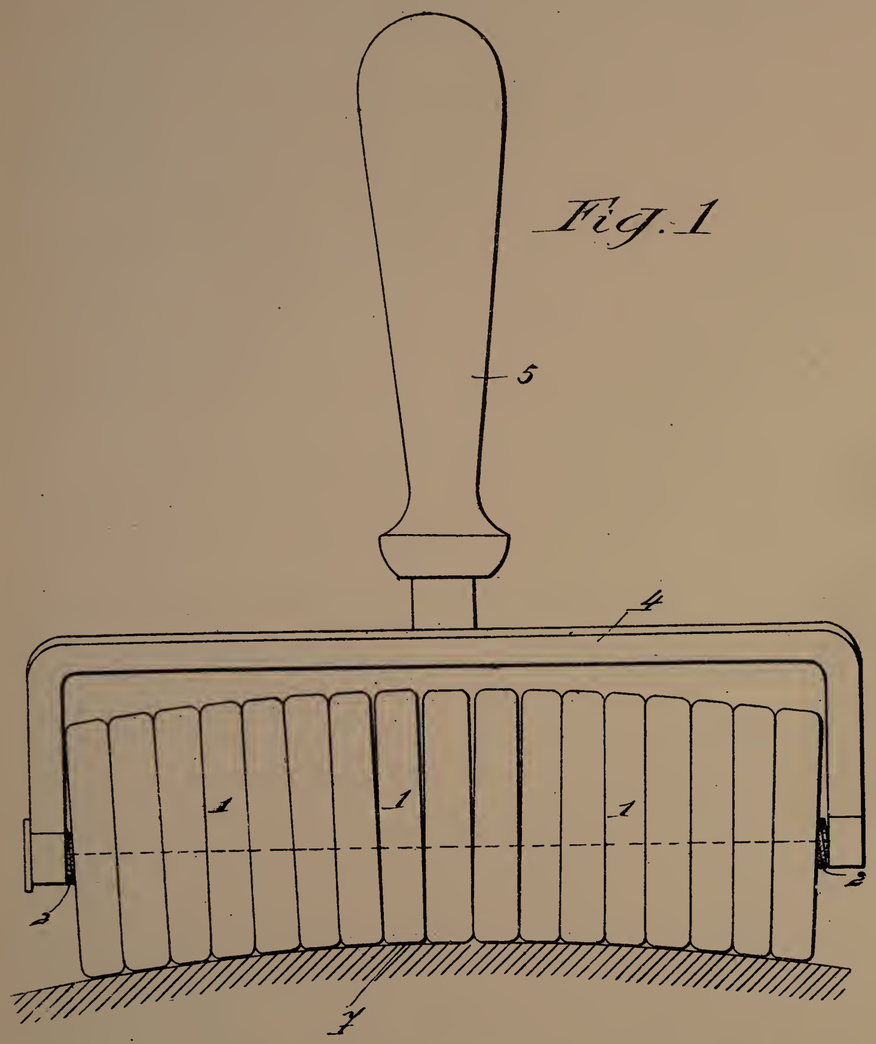


Fig. 2

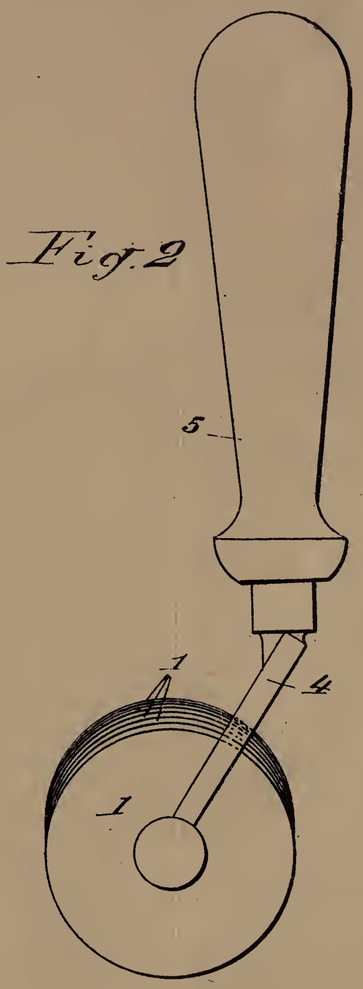


Fig. 5

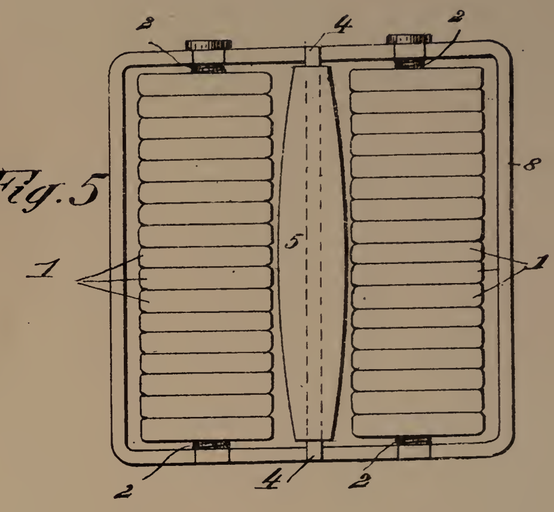


Fig. 4

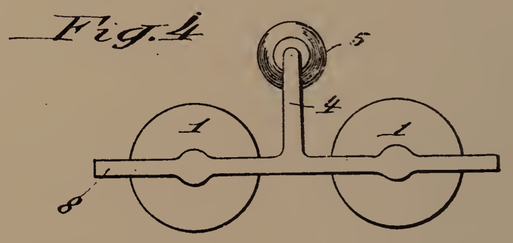
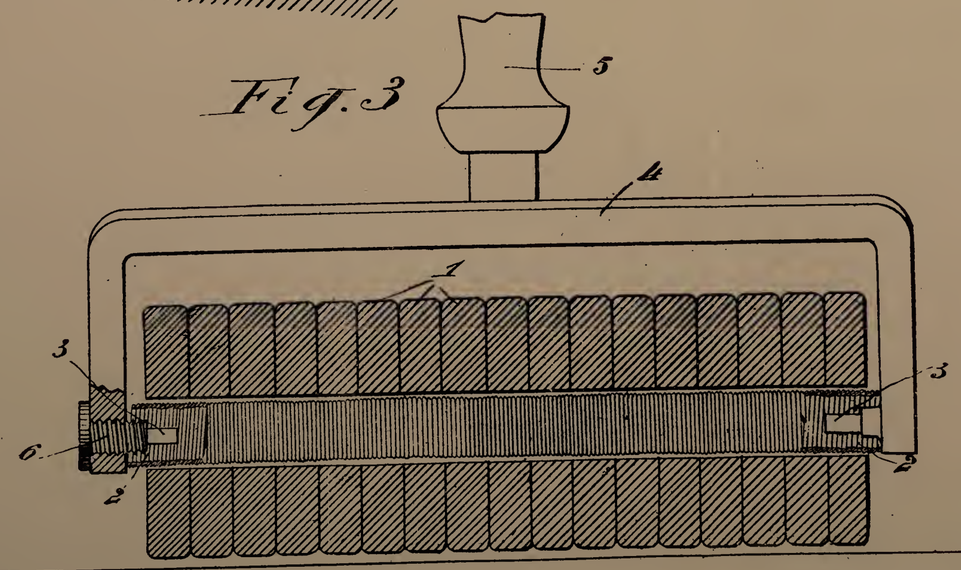


Fig. 3



[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

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